(c) whether it is a fact that the tobacco shipped from Andhra Pradesh could not be unloaded and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Russian importers raised some claims against Indian exporters and if so, the details thereof; and what action Government propose to resolve the crisis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) By an MOU signed at Government to Government level on 21-5-93, an adhoc advance of Rs. 100 crores was released to Russia for import of tobacco. According to trade sources, the total quantity contracted against this advance is 27,200 tons; quantity shipped is 18,422.7 tons; and Letters of Credit have been opened for Rs. 47.01 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir. In a talex message dated 3-12-93 to 15 tobacco exporters, the Russian importing organisation has alleged that the vessels carrying tobacco were overloaded in infringement of the rules of loading resulting in self-heating of tobacco and apparent emission of harmful gases. It has informed that due to this workers had refused to unload the tobacco.

(d) As per information available, no claim has been raised so far. The Tobacco Board is in touch with the Exporters and the Indian Tobacco Association.

Tobacco Auctions in Karnataka

1294. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) since when Tobacco auctions have been going on in Karnataka ;

(b) how much quantity has been sold so far ;

(c) whether it is a fact that auctions were suspended on some of the platforms during November, 1993 ;

(d) if so, what are the details and reasons thereof ;

(e) how long the auctions continue to complete the marketing of authorised crop ;

(f) what is the estimated unauthorised crop ; and

(g) what steps Government propose in regard to unauthorised production with details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) From 6-10-93.

(b) 14.06 M. Kgs. have been sold as on 6-12-93.

(c) and (d) Yes. Sir, Platform-wise details are given below :

Name of the Platform	Date of suspension	Reasons
H.D. Kote . . .	19-11-93	Growers dissatisfied with prices, abused some buyers. Buyers abstained.
Hunsur . . .	26-11-93, 27-11-93, 30-11-93 & 1-12-93	Growers stopped auctions demanding higher prices.
Periapatna-4 . . .	27-11-93	Do.
Periapatna-5 . . .	30-11-93	Do.
Ramanathapura . .	24-11-93	Do.
Shimoga . . .	27-11-93	Do.

(e) Likely to be completed by the 1st week of January, 1994.

(f) About 13 M. Kgs.

(g) Depending on market situation, a view regarding marketing of excess crop will be taken by the Board only after completion of marketing of the authorised crop.

Cases Against Tobacco Traders

1295. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tobacco Board registered cases against some tobacco traders for resorting to purchase to tobacco outside the auction platforms;

(b) if so, whether they sought permission from Government;

(c) whether any cases are pending with Government for which Tobacco Board has sought permission to register cases;

(d) if so, what are the details and since when they are pending; and

(e) the number of cases that have been finalised so far with details, year-wise for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir, 17 cases had been referred to Government by the Tobacco Board vide their letter dated 19-11-1993. The cases are under examination.

(e) Government has accorded sanction for prosecution in six cases relating to 1992 Karnataka auctions.

Indian Ocean Economic Bloc

1296. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the South African Foreign Minister Mr. R. F. Botha has suggested an Indian Ocean economic bloc; and

(b) if, so the details of the proposal and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) South African Foreign Minister has proposed intensified economic cooperation amongst the litteral countries of the Indian Ocean including South Africa, Pakistan, The Gulf and East African states. The Govt. of India is examining the suggestion.

देश में निर्यात और आयात में वृद्धि

1297. **श्रीमती सत्या बहिन**: क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) विगत तीन वर्षों के दौरान देश के आयात/निर्यात में कितनी-कितनी वृद्धि हुई है;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने उपरोक्त अवधि में कतिपय देशों के साथ प्रथम बार कोई वाणिज्यिक अनुबन्ध किया है और उन देशों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं तथा इन देशों के साथ होने वाले विभिन्न प्रकार के आयात-निर्यात व्यापार का ब्यौरा क्या है तथा क्या सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में की गई प्रगति से संतुष्ट है; और

(ग) क्या अमरीका द्वारा धारा 301 के अन्तर्गत लगाये गये व्यापार प्रतिबन्धों की कोई समीक्षा की गई है और क्या भारतीय व्यापार पर इस धारा 301 का प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ रहा है; यदि हां, तो इसके वर्तमान प्रभाव क्या हैं?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी): (क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान अन्य देशों के साथ किए गए आयात/निर्यात के आंकड़े नीचे सारणी